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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR: Michael J. Weiss et al. ) EXAMINER: Edward F. Landrum  
SERIAL NO.: 10/711,373 ) ART UNIT: 3724  
FILING DATE: September 14, 2004 ) DATE: November 13, 2006  
FOR: SELF-CONTAINED CASSETTE MATERIAL CUTTER AND METHOD  
OF CUTTING

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed November 2, 2006, and the restriction requirement made therein, applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-10, drawn to an apparatus with an upper cutter portion in slideably movable contact with a lower cutter portion, for continued examination herein.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that 35 U.S.C. § 121 authorizes restriction only when the claimed invention is "independent and distinct" (emphasis added). A search of the subject matter of Group II, claims 11-18, drawn to a self-contained cassette module cutter for cutting elongated strips of material using an adapter pressure plate, and Group III, claims 19-20, drawn to a method of cutting elongated strip material, would necessarily require a search of the subject matter of Group I. Thus the

apparatus and method delineated in Groups II and III, respectively, are not directed to an independent and distinct matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop \_\_\_\_\_, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Name: Pam Rigling Date: 11/13/06 Signature: 

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